(b) if so, whether Government have been forced to look for alternate avenues to bring about private participation to improve infrastructure at the four major airports;

(c) if so, what alternative avenues are being considered by the Ministry of Civil Aviation; and

(d) by when final decision to lease out airports would be considered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (d): Action was initiated for restructuring of the four metro airports through long-term leasing route, consequent to Government's decision to this effect in January, 2000. All preparatory work for restructuring of the four metro airports is continuing concurrently to the consideration of the AAI (Amendment) Bill, 2000 by the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport and Tourism. No decision has been taken by the Government so far on alternative avenues. The target date for restructuring as mentioned in the budget speech is 31.3.2003.

Losses Incurred By AAI Due to Advertising

1352. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Civil Aviation is faced with an advertising rights scam which caused loss Rs. 21.6 crore to the Airports Authority of India;

(b) if so, whether CBI was investigating the case on which AAI officials and a Delhi based-company are allegedly involved;

(c) if so, what were the main allegation made;

(d) whether the CBI has submitted its report; and

(e) what action has been taken against those responsible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) on 26.3.2002, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) registered a case against some officials of Airports Aurhority of India (AAI) and M/s TDI International Pvt. Ltd. It is alleged that certain officials of the AAI during the period 1995-96 entered

into a criminal conspiracy with themselves and Managing Director, M/s TDI International Pvt. Ltd. with the object of causing pecuniary advantage to the firm or to themselves and by abusing their official position cheated the AAI in the matter of award and execution of contract of advertising rights on trolleys on 5 International Airports causing wrongful pecuniary loss of Rs. 21.5 crores to the AAI.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Disinvestment of Government's Share in AI

1353. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH SURYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India is still going in loss;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor,

(c) whether Government propose to disinvest their share in this company; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Licence for Airtaxi Services

1354. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of proposal for grant of licence for air taxi services are pending with the Director General Civil Aviation (DGCA);

(b) if so, what are the names of the companies whose proposals are awaiting clearance;